THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The representations with regard to inclusion/exclusion of bulk drugs (including Glybenclamide) under DPCO, 1987 are under examination of Government.

Difference between film coated and plain tablets of Metranidazole 400 mfl.

763. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference in film coated tablets nad plain tablets of Metranidazole 400 mg.;

(b) what was the extra amount allowed for film coated Tablets of this product and what are the norms for the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of Infusions based on Metranidazole are being overcharged;

(d) i fso, whether his Ministry have come across any such instances;

(e) if so, what are the names of the products, price fixed and charged for each; and

(f) since when the price is being overcharged on each product and what action has been taken so far against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under DPCO, 1987, the conversion cost allowed for all plain tablets (per 1000, large 351 mg. to 600 mg.) is Rs. 725 whereas for all coated tablets of the similar strength and number, it is Rs. 10.87.

(c) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reivew of Packing material costs

764. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BICP have been asked to review the Packing material costs;

(b) if so, what was the terms of reference of such review;

(c) whether it is also a fact that BICP have sent its findings; and

(d) what is the present packing material cost being allowed for fixing the prices of formulations and what are the basis on which it is being allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) BICP was requested to study the packing material costs afresh and give its recommendations. BICP has furnished its recommendations.

(d) The packing material costs presently allowed are on the basis of ceilings fixed on the basis of a BICP study and different celings have been fixed as internal guideline for avrious packing materials according to packing requirements.

Production of drugs from Intermediate and Penultimate stages

765. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of drugs being produced in the country from Intermediate and Penultimate stages for the last more than three years;

(b) what are the names of those companies and since when each drug is being produced and what was the production of each during the last three years, yearwise;

(c) what were the recommendations of Hathi Committee on the production of drugs from penultimate and intermediate stages;

(d) what are the details of Government policy on this issue;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have received certain complaints regarding involvement of higher foreign exchange in the production from penultimate/intermediate stages than import of drugs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Information in respect of parts (a) & (b) is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Hathi Committee has recommended that production from more basic stages should be encouraged. Therefore, Government has prescribed basic stages of manufacture for bulk drugs taking into consideration the level of indigenous technology available.

(e) and (f) One such instance has come to the notice of the Ministry in the case of manufacture of Chloropramizine by M/s. Rhone Poulence.

Review of list of category I drugs

766. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have decided to review the list of category I drugs; and

(b) if so, when such decision was taken and what is the latest position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, this is one of the tasks assigned to the Standing Committee and the matter is under examination of the Government.

Bahsis of recommendation of Murthy Committee

767. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basis on which Murthy Committee recommended increase in the price of Betamathasone and its salts and when the recommendation was made;

(b) how this case was referred to Murthey Committee and with whose approval;

(c) whether it is a fact that Murthy Committee did not rely on cost data, ignored the same and increased the price without any basis;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Companies accrued huge benefit due to this step; and

(e) if so, the details of accrued profit and what steps have been taken to fix responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e) Since the price review Committee (Murthy Committee) was already functioning for review of prices in respect of Supreme Court case companies, it was decided that this Committee should also hear the Review application of M/s. Glaxo in terms of the Judgement of the Delhi High Court. However as in the case of Supreme Court case companies, the computations made in the case of M/s. Glaxo have also been subjected to a fresh scrutiny, and in the background thereof the revised liability of Rs. 71.78 crores has been communicated you M/s. Glaxo. The company have, however again filed a Writ Petition in the Delhi High Court and the matter is, therefore, Sub-Judice.

Statement of Kelkar Committee

768. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kelkar Committee stated that Diclofenac Sodium, Diphanhydramine, Hydroxyprogesterone, Methdilazine, Oxyphenbutazone, Phenylbutazone and Tindazole do not fulfil any exclusion criteria;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have decontrolled the price of these drugs; and